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PAGE 01 BUENOS 04019 141942Z
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 SSO-00 /031 W
-----075443 141955Z /60

O 141910Z MAY 80
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5363

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E.O. 12065: XDS-4 5/14/00 (CHAPLIN, MAXWELL) OR-M
TAGS: SHUM AR
SUBJECT: (S) MORE ON PST DISAPPEARANCES

REF: BUENOS AIRES 4018

1. S - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. WE HAVE SOME ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE ARRESTS/
DISAPPEARANCES OF PST MEMBERS IN ROSARIO WHICH BECAUSE
OF THE SENSITIVITY OF THE SOURCE WE COULD NOT INCLUDE
IN REFTEL.

3. OUR SOURCE, WELL PLACED TO HAVE FIRSTHAND INFORMATION
ON THIS INCIDENT, TOLD US LATE MAY 13 THAT A NUMBER
OF PST MEMBERS HAD BEEN ROUNDED UP IN ROSARIO BY THE
ARMY. THE OPERATION, HE CLAIMED, WAS UNAUTHORIZED,
UNDERTAKEN ON THE AUTHORITY OF LOCAL ARMY SECURITY FORCES
IN ROSARIO, AND AGAINST STANDING ORDERS. RESPONSIBLE
SECURITY OFFICERS IN BUENOS AIRES WERE TRYING TO STRAIGHTEN
OUT THE "MESS", ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE. HE SAID THAT
HE EXPECTED THE DETAINEES TO APPEAR SHORTLY IN POLICE
CUSTODY CHARGED WITH BEING MEMBERS OF AN OUTLAWED POLITICAL
PARTY.

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4. IN DISCUSSING THIS CASE, THE SOURCE ONCE AGAIN
REVIEWED FOR US WHAT HE SWORE WERE THE VERY HARD ORDERS
THAT WENT OUT LATE LAST YEAR FOR SECURITY PRO-
CEDURES:

Department of State, AIGIS/PS/SRP
Change to
() Deny () Declassify
() Excise () E.O. 13526 25x () ()
Exemptions b ()
Declassify after
with concurrence of:
obtained Date 12-15
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A. ACTIVE MONTONEROS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE SO-CALLED SPECIAL INFANTRY TROOPS (TEI) AND SPECIAL AGITATION TROOPS (TEA) WILL BE DEALT WITH AS BEFORE: TORTURE AND SUMMARY EXECUTION BEING THEIR LOT.

B. OPERATIONS AGAINST ALL OTHER GROUPS WILL BE CONDUCTED OPENLY AND WITHIN THE ARGENTINE LEGAL SYSTEM. IF, FOR EXAMPLE, PST MEMBERS ARE ARRESTED, THE ARREST SHOULD BE ACKNOWLEDGED AND THE DETAINEE FORMALLY ARRAIGNED BEFORE A JUDGE. OUR SOURCE CLAIMED THAT THESE ORDERS EXTEND TO PAST AND PRESENT "PERIFERAL" MONTONERO MEMBERS--INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE SUSPECTED OF BEING SYMPATHIZERS OR WHO MAY HAVE IN THE PAST COOPERATED IN A FAIRLY LOW LEVEL WAY BUT ARE NOW INACTIVE. THE SECURITY FORCES, HE CLAIMED, HAVE INFORMATION--SOME OF IT VERY FLIMSY--ON ABOUT 500-600 SUCH "PERIFERAL" MONTONEROS PRESENTLY IN ARGENTINA. THE FORCES ARE PROHIBITED FROM CONDUCTING CLANDESTINE OPERATIONS AGAINST THEM AND DO NOT HAVE THE TRAINING OR THE DESIRE TO PURSUE THEM LEGALLY.

5. IN DISCUSSING THE CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO EXTRA-JUDICIAL TACTICS AGAINST MONTONEROS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE TEA AND TIE, EMBOFF ASKED WHY THE MILITARY DID NOT FEEL IT POSSIBLE TO BRING THESE PEOPLE BEFORE FORMAL COURTS, EVEN MILITARY COURTS. OUR INFORMANT GAVE TWO REASONS. FIRST, THE SECURITY FORCES NEITHER TRUST NOR KNOW HOW TO USE LEGAL SOLUTIONS. THE PRESENT METHODS

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ARE EASIER AND MORE FAMILIAR. SECOND, THERE IS NO RESPONSIBLE MILITARY MAN WHO "HAS THE COURAGE" TO TAKE FORMAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONVICTION AND EXECUTION OF A MONTONERO. UNDER PRESENT RULES "NOBODY" IS RESPONSIBLE ON THE RECORD FOR THE EXECUTIONS. CASTRO

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